

Serial No. 09/996,184

Reply

Page 5 of 8

**REMARKS****Claim Amendment:**

Applicant thanks the examiner for identifying claims 8 and 10 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has thus rewritten these claims into their respective independent claims.

Applicant has amended claim 8 and 10 to further recite the presence of a bioactive compound, a therapeutic substance or cells in the composition. Support for this amendment can be found at least at page 3, line 4-5 (for bioactive compound); page 3, line 25 (for cells); and page 10 line 18 (for therapeutic substance). Therefore, applicant believes that this amendment does not add new matter.

Claim 12 is amended to correct the claim dependency.

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing of the first Office Action on the merits but before the mailing of a final Action. Applicant submits form 1449 for consideration under 37 CFR §1.97(c) along with copies of the references listed. Applicant kindly request consideration of the cited reference and return of the form 1449 bearing the examiner's initials.